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THE INKWELL

Week of March 25, 2010

theinkwellonline.com

Volume 79, Issue 10

Bleicken, students set sail in St. Patrick's Day Parade



Photo by Hank Sharpe

AASU floated through the St. Patrick's Day Parade to mark its 75th anniversary. Dr. Bleicken, in pirate costume, and her husband Carl Bleicken, in parrot costume, wave to the crowd from the pirate's ship.

By Travis Morningstar
Staff Reporter

"The Armstrong Atlantic," AASU's massive mascot of a float, sailed majestically down Bull Street during the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 17, captained by President Linda Bleicken who led in front by energetic cheerleaders.

Upon seeing AASU's whimsical portion of the parade, AASU Alumni Ellen Crawford said, "It was strange; I no longer attend the university, but I felt a surge of familiar pride when I saw the AASU cheerleaders, followed by their giant pirate float."

Savannah's St. Patrick's Day traditions are among the second most popular in

the country – a choice moment to exude school spirit. For the newly initiated, the parade strutted its nature of reverence, elegance and fun.

"I thought it was very well-behaved, yet exciting," said AASU professor Douglas Wertsch. "I particularly enjoyed the military involvement – this city has such a profound respect for its men and women in uniform."

AASU's float rollicked through the Historic District of Savannah with rocking, swaying nautical motions and was met with uproarious applause at its theatrics.

GREEN | PAGE 6

Correction

Dung Nguyen, pictured to the right, was incorrectly identified in "Campus Life" in the March 11 edition of The Inkwell. The wrong photo was attached to Nguyen's comment and major.



Campus Briefs

Census comes to campus

This year the U.S. Census Bureau will conduct the 2010 census, the counting of everyone living in America.

The Census Bureau seeks to count all people living in the United States regardless of legal status.

The 2010 census determines congressional representation from each state and will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds. Students should have received the census in mid-March and sent back by April 1.

The mobile lives of university students produce many challenges to counting college students living in these communities.

The census form states parents should not record their son or daughter if they are away at school. College students must fill out their own census form unless they are living with their parents.

For students who have roommates, the census will send an apartment only one form. This means if a student has one or more roommates, all of their information goes on one form.

University Housing will organize how the census forms will be distributed and returned.

For more information about the 2010 census, visit www.2010census.gov.

Unlimited laundry

University Housing will provide free unlimited laundry for the 2010-2011 academic school year.

The system Laundry View will allow students to monitor the status of their laundry using their computer or mobile phone. The service begins August 2010.

For more information, contact 344-2940 or e-mail housing@armstrong.edu.

OMA plans to hear bell hooks speak at Georgia Southern

By Amanda Dickey
Staff Reporter

bell hooks, author of critically acclaimed and highly influential works, will lecture at Georgia Southern University (GSU) on March 25.

Although mainly described as a feminist thinker, her works, including "Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism" (South End Press, 1981), delve into numerous other controversial and challenging subjects such as class, race, culture, gender, teaching and the significance of the media in contemporary culture.

Stockholm University student Jenny Ljungqvist said the extensive versatility in her writing has allowed her to become exceedingly popular and build an increasingly large collection of fans.

"When I first read her, she made me think about feminism in a different way, which was a good thing. I think she makes theory accessible, which is important when so much theory is intended only for other academics and is written in a dense, difficult style. I believe this accessibility in reference to feminism is very important as so many people do not really know much about feminism or have a distorted view of it," Ljungqvist said.

bell hooks, born Gloria Watkins, is distinguished Writer and Professor of English at Berea College in Kentucky.

She was born in Hopkinsville, Ky. in 1952, and received her B.A. from Stanford University in 1973. In 1976, she received her M.A. from the University of Wisconsin and her Ph.D. from the University of California

in Santa Cruz in 1983.

bell hooks's March 25 GSU lecture is titled "Cultural Criticism and Transformation," in which she will primarily discuss popular culture in the context of patriarchy, white supremacy and capitalism, as stated previously in her writings.

bell hooks thinks "White Supremacist Capitalist Patriarchy" as being interconnected, rather than having separate components.

Director of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) Michael Snowden said he thinks this event is a great opportunity for AASU students to be exposed to people that lecture on such broad and deep-reaching topics.

"She is a professor, writer, and one of the greatest intellectuals of our time. I thought it to be a great and wonderful thing if I, as a director, could help students with the possibility of see-



Author bell hooks is known for the precise, fierce tone of her writing. Her latest book, "Remembered Romance," is a collection of memoirs and essays about the process and power of writing.

"At this particular lecture, she'll talk about race, class, gender, and place, and how all of that intersects. This is a great opportunity for students and faculty given her rich academic history. One thing that she has to offer to those who attend her lecture," Snowden said.

Consuela Ward, director of the Multicultural Student Center at Georgia Southern said hooks is a cultural critic that analyzes social constructs and gender.

HOOKS | PAGE 2

President addresses SGA on impending budget cuts

By Brad Curran
Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association (SGA) heard from AASU's President, Dr. Linda Bleicken, on March 22 to discuss the topic of the proposed University System of Georgia (USG) budget for the fiscal year 2011.

The substantial cuts to the USG's budget will have profound effects on the lives of students and professors across the state.

Bleicken gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the budget cuts which she had previously given to AASU's faculty in a staff meeting on March 12, preceding Spring Break.

The proposed budget for the fiscal year 2011, if approved, will cut \$300 million from the budget allocated to the USG, which translates to \$5.2 million from AASU's already declining budget.

Bleicken said this is a tough time for the university, and the decisions are even tougher.

"This is probably the hardest thing I've done in my professional life," Bleicken said. "It's terrible to tell some-

SGA | PAGE 2

New SGA executive officers elected to serve during the 2010-2011 school year

By Joseph Prouse
Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association (SGA) officer elections for the 2010-2011 year have ended and the votes have been calculated.

SGA's new president is Zerk Samples, who ran unopposed.

Sen. Ty Slater, who ran against Sen. Ellen Evans, won the seat of vice president with 62 percent of the vote.

Sen. Desmond Wells beat Deshaundra Fuller and Sen. Bryan Tobar in a landslide victory to become treasurer. The combined votes for Fuller (87) and Tobar (114) did not match Wells' 341 votes.

Last but not least, Sen. Eleora Marcel ran against Courtland Hendricks and Kimberly Brown with an equally impressive victory to claim the position of secretary of the SGA.

All of the newly elected officers, whose terms begin in fall 2010, are happy with the elections and ready to fulfill their respective du-

ties.

"As the new 2010-2011 SGA secretary I promise to fulfill all the duties as secretary in a timely and orderly fashion and if any student needs or has a question I want them to feel free to contact me and ask me," Marcel said. "My goals are to continue to increase school spirit and make sure that the senate as well as the executive board meets their goals."

Slater said he was excited about his new position and was ready to get to work.

"I am very elated that the students have voted me into the post of their SGA vice president. It feels good to know that the students made it clear that they wanted me to continue my service to them," Slater said. "There is work to be done, let's get to it!"

Wells said he is ready to work as the new SGA treasurer.

"To all my fellow students thank you all that participated in the 2010-2011 Student Government Association Elections. I am

pleased with the results and as a member of the 2010-2011 executive board I plan on fulfilling my duties as treasurer. Feel free to stop by any of our meetings, because they are for all students on our campus at noon on Mondays in Solms 110," Wells said via e-mail.

Attempts were made to contact Samples, but he did not immediately reply.

SGA election vote totals

President candidate

Zerk Samples 516

Vice President candidates

Ty Slater 330
Ellen Evans 206

Secretary candidates

Eleora Marcel 249
Kimberly Brown 147
Courtland Hendricks 142

Treasurer

Desmond Wells 341
Bryan Tobar 114
Deshaundra Fuller 87

The SGA induction ceremony is April 12.

The ceremony will be in Solms Hall Room 110 from noon - 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

NEWS

March 26: Inkwell Staff Meeting in University Hall 131 from noon-1 p.m.
Robert I. Strozier Faculty Lecture Series in University Hall 156 from 12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
HOLA Census Service Center in Solms Hall 110 from 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
March 29: SGA meeting in Solms Hall 108 from noon-1 p.m.
March 31: HIV/AIDS Awareness Program in University Hall 156 from 2 p.m.-3p.m.

Professor will expain impact of Sichuan in China

By Brad Curran
Staff Reporter

History Professor Dr. Honjie Wang will present “Spicy Sichuan: Chili Pepper, Regional Identity and Chinese Revolution” for this month’s installment of Robert I. Strozier’s Faculty Lecture Series on March 26.

It’s not often that the introduction of a brand of food into a nation is identified as not only a part of the nation’s regional identity, but also the catalyst for a

cultural revolution.

But Wang thinks such is the case in the history of China.

“Chili peppers were first brought into China in the sixteenth century, and by the 18th century, it had become aware of the concept of spicy food,” Wang said, “and it essentially transformed the identity of the people in the Sichuan province. Also, because of Chairman Mao, who was a fan of spicy food, it also became a symbol of revolt in China.”

Sichuan might be the best-known Chinese province to Westerners, and the reason is very simple—its popular cuisine with super spicy flavor resulting from liberal use of chili peppers. Yet one would be surprised to know that Sichuanese did not eat chili until the late 18th or early 19th century.

The lecture will examine the dissemination of chili peppers in China and its revolutionary role in transforming Sichuanese cuisine, which helped to reshape

the regional identity of the province since the 19th century, inventing the well-accepted myth that links spicy food to the character of Sichuanese and their contributions to Chinese revolution in modern times.

Wang’s lecture will be in University Hall Room 156 at 12:10 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

Professor Kildow will give the next Robert I. Strozier Faculty Lecture on April 16 at 12:15 p.m.

Last lap in health care marathon to begin in Senate

By David Lightman
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

WASHINGTON — The final lap of the historic health-care marathon was expected to begin Tuesday, March 23 in the Senate, where Democrats were confident that they have the votes to complete revamping the nation’s health-care system.

First, though, the measure has to survive a last-ditch Republican effort to derail it. Their major challenge was expected to involve Social Security policy, and the outcome depends on the Senate parliamentarian’s ruling.

The next phase of debate will start after President Barack Obama signs Senate-authored health-care legislation Tuesday that the House of Representatives approved March 21. Once Obama acts, the Senate will consider a package of House changes to that measure called “reconciliation.”

Debate will be limited to 20 hours, and 51 votes will be needed for passage. Democrats control 59 seats in the Senate, but they expect to lose the votes of some of their conservatives.

Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., who faces a difficult re-election campaign, said she’d oppose the measure, charging that the House-drafted reconciliation bill “wasn’t subject to the same transparency and thorough debate that we used in the Senate.”

Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., also announced that he will oppose the reconciliation bill.

Republicans began their Senate assault Monday, as Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky charged that Democrats “want

us to endorse a raft of new sweetheart deals that were struck behind closed doors last week so this thing could limp over the finish line.”

The White House is countering with its own campaign. Obama plans to promote the bill March 25 in Iowa City, Iowa, where he laid out his health-care proposal as a candidate in 2007.

The reconciliation package, which the House approved Sunday night with no Republican support, would make a series of changes to the bill that Obama will sign March 23. It provides more government help with insurance premiums for lower- and middle-class families, more prescription-drug benefits for most Medicare beneficiaries and help for states with Medicaid, the state-federal health program for lower-income people.

The legislation also delays a new tax on high-end insurance policies to 2018, and increases the Medicare payroll tax for the wealthy. Single people who earn more than \$200,000 annually, and joint filers who make more than \$250,000, would see the tax increase 0.9 percentage point in 2013, to 2.35 percent. They’d also pay a 3.8 percent tax on dividends, interest and other unearned income.

Republicans plan a two-pronged effort to stop the Democratic plan, through parliamentary challenges and amendments.

GOP leaders think they have a potent weapon for the fall midterm campaigns as well as the moral high ground in this debate, and they’re echoing the argument made by Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C.

“Unless this trillion-dollar

assault on our freedoms is repealed, it will force Americans to purchase Washington-approved health plans or face stiff penalties,” DeMint said.

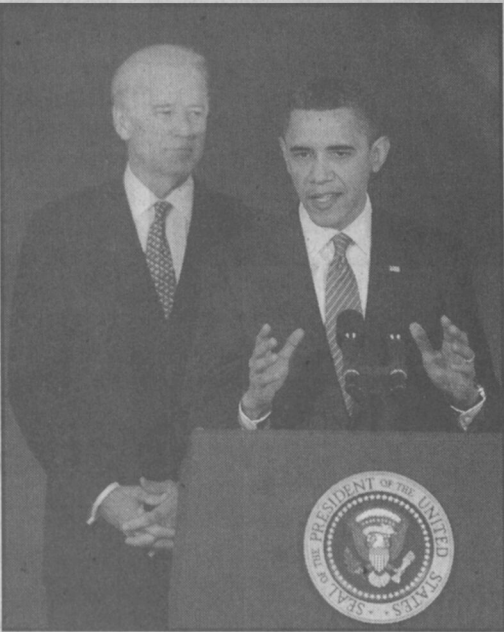
The repeal movement was becoming popular quickly among conservatives.

Former New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, a Republican Senate candidate, said Monday that if she were elected, “I’d be the first to back this bill,” because “New Hampshire citizens tell me every day that they don’t want a federal takeover of health care.”

Republicans’ best hope for thwarting the Democrats in the Senate probably lies in the parliamentary process. Under the “Byrd rule,” named for master tactician Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., reconciliation measures must relate directly to the federal budget process.

One key Republican test centers on Social Security. The bill would delay a Senate-approved excise tax on high-end insurance policies by five years, until 2018. That delay, Republicans say, would encourage employers to continue offering more elaborate insurance policies in lieu of increasing wages. Since wages up to a certain level are subject to Social Security tax, the change is likely to mean less Social Security revenue.

Reconciliation isn’t supposed



Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/MCT
President Barack Obama makes a statement in the East Room following the final vote in the House on health care reform in Washington D.C., Sunday, March 21, 2010.

to affect Social Security, Republicans contend. If Senate Parliamentarian Alan Frumin agrees, Democrats could need 60 votes to overturn his ruling — a difficult hurdle — and a failure to get those votes would effectively scuttle the reconciliation bill. Staffers from both parties met with Frumin for an hour Monday and reported no decision.

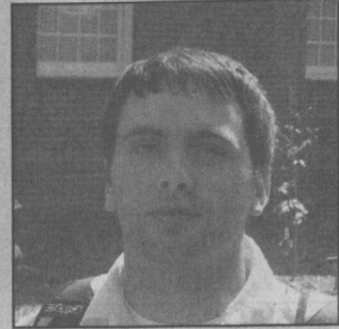
Democrats claimed to be unconcerned.

“I’m confident the parliamentarian will see the fallacy of the argument,” said Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M.

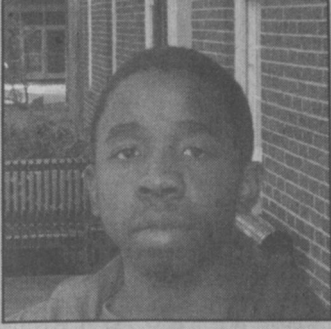
Amending the reconciliation bill is expected to be difficult, but Republicans see political gain from forcing Democrats to go on the record on controversial issues. Republican leaders are discussing amendments that would reduce the size of proposed cuts to Medicare, cut back the Medicare tax increase and scale back the bill’s \$938 billion price tag.

Campus Life

Where we ask you what you think.
Reported by Joshua Guallett
Staff Reporter



“Yeah, the city of Savannah already does a recycling program. So as a university, I think it would be an easy program to get involved. Also, the cost wouldn’t be that much.”
John Davis, information technology, junior



“They should because it is good for the environment, and if more people saw them recycle maybe they would.”
Like Kawasha, biology, freshman



“Yes, because recycling is awesome.”
Emily Wilson, special education, sophomore



“Yes, that is always good unless it would cost too much money, especially now.”
Melissa Luna, pre-nursing, junior

Get more opinions at www.theinkwellonline.com

Six by Six

Six students answer in six words.

- “How do you give back to Mother Nature?”
- | | |
|--|---|
| “By biking as much as possible.”
Cody Henson, biology, sophomore | “Spend time in its presences reflecting.”
Travis MacMillan, English, senior |
| “I always try to recycle often.”
Krystle Lannaman, graphic design, junior | “By recycling and using green tips.”
Chelsea Jackson, criminal justice, junior |
| “I do recycle once in awhile.”
Carmeoine Botti, nursing, junior | “By recycling what I throw away.”
Erica Wilson, education, freshman |

Do you agree? Or are they way off? Visit www.theinkwellonline.com and click the Campus Life tab, then weigh in with your opinion on this week’s topics.

SGA | FROM PAGE 1

one that they’re going to be gone as a result of the budget shortfall. We’re trying to make the best decisions we can that will hurt the fewest number of people, but we will be hurting someone no matter what.”

The budget cuts have been met with near-universal opposition from students and faculty alike.

Petitions have circulated online opposing the cuts and hundreds of students from colleges across the state, including AASU, organizing a protest at the capitol building in Atlanta, Ga., on Monday, March 15.

The goal was for students to voice their opposition to the cuts.

If the budget cuts are approved, Bleicken explained cuts could start in early May.

The university will let go of 73 part-time faculty, and more than 1,100 students will be faced with the choice of either relocating to other universities or changing their majors.

The determining factors of which majors are to be cut include the number of students enrolled and the cost to the university.

Despite the tough choices facing AASU, Bleicken also expressed optimism that AASU and universities throughout Georgia will survive.

“Armstrong was first founded during the Great Depression, and if we think it’s hard now, they had it so much worse. In my mind, if we were able to get through the Great Depression, we can survive this, not just survive, but prosper,” Bleicken said.

The next SGA meeting is March 29 in Solms Hall Room 110 from noon-1 p.m.

Crime Blotter
Minors busted for drinking in Compass Point

By Stuart Grosse
Staff Reporter

Officer David Perry and Lieutenant John Bennet of University Police Department (UPD) were conducting a foot patrol through Compass Point on March 13, at approximately 9:06 p.m., when they heard loud voices coming from the 3000 building.

They glanced in the window and saw red cups and beer cans in plain view of the window. Perry knocked on the door but got no answer.

According to police reports, Bennet observed the occupants of the room pouring drinks in the sink and hiding beer cans, and he notified Perry and the CA on duty of these actions.

When the occupants finally answered the door, Perry asked if they had any alco-

hol, and they said yes.

There were two other males in the apartment as well. When the CA arrived, the apartment was searched, revealing a woman hiding in the closet.

The report said Perry asked the students who provided them with the alcohol, since two of them were underage, but the occupant of the room refused to cooperate, saying only that it was a member of his fraternity, the Pikes.

The two underage participants were given state citations for underage drinking.

Officer Meagan Zike of the UPD was dispatched to UPD HQ on March 11 at approximately 5:55 p.m. in reference to a stolen wallet.

The owner of the wallet stated that she lost the wallet sometime between 10 p.m. the day before and that day. The student called her credit card companies to cancel the cards and freeze the accounts.

HOOKS | FROM PAGE 1

ture will be a different perspective of the American story; a perspective that’s not always heard unless you happen to take gender and women’s studies classes. The opportunity to provide this lecture to students is a phenomenal experience for me,” Ward said.

AASU’s very own OMA will provide transportation for students to this event.

The transportation will leave the AASU campus at 4:30 p.m. to avoid Georgetown traffic. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. in GSU’s Russell Union Ballroom.

Editor-in-chief position is available

The Inkwell is now accepting applications for editor-in-chief.

Applications are in the MCC building outside of the Inkwell office Room 202
You must be a student during Fall 2010 and Spring 2011

For more information:
Office of Student Activities
MCC Room 201
Phone: (912) 344-3252
tony@tonymorris.org
Application deadline: April 9, 2010

EDITORIALS
& OPINIONS

The Inkwell welcomes and invites letters to the editor. All submissions must be less than 350 words, and they must be signed. E-mail your submission to inkwell@armstrong.edu.

Opinions expressed in op/ed columns or in editorial cartoons do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the newspaper.

The Inkwell reserves the right to edit for grammar and spelling.

If 100,000 people join, we'll... do nothing

Modern protesting makes for soft opposition to budget cuts

The Inkwell Editorial Board

Civil disobedience – it's as American as Velveeta. In his essay of the same name, Henry David Thoreau opined that when the "wise minority," elected to serve in the best interest of citizens, makes dumb decisions, the majority must act. His essay inspired Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. and their peaceful disobedience moved mountains.

But in today's ocean of Wi-Fi A.D.D., apathy drowns our fires – even when our future's at stake. When the news broke that AASU would shoulder more than \$5 million in budget cuts, Facebook came alive with

the sound of protests. In fact, an official petition was even passed around via Facebook, but instead of actually signing it – figuring out to do so took a few seconds of reading – many students just typed their names onto the group's "wall."

To its credit, the internet can be an effective means of rallying troops for a cause – we saw this in the 2008 Presidential election, and the recent Tea Party gatherings have been glued together with the Web. Through social networking and e-mail, AASU students managed to organize a protest on March 11.

The call to action included a plea for politeness – perhaps too much politeness. Students were told to wear

white masks – let's face it; gathering with white masks don't exactly carry a positive connotation in the South – and it was billed as a "silent protest." But really, is something as important as our educational futures something to

be silent about?

Students were told that this politeness would garner positive press. It did – a black and white photo with a cutline buried a couple pages back in Savannah Morning News and a brief clip on WTOG.

That said, the mere fact that students were willing to stand in the rain on the side of Abercorn Street is commendable. Just as commendable is that some students were willing to drive to Atlanta during Spring Break to make their voices heard at the Capitol.

But was it enough?

The writing on the wall is this: dental hygiene is out; communication sciences and disorders is out; respiration therapy is out; the Liberty Center is out.

Now that we have a clearer picture of which programs are getting axed, the paranoia that fueled the masses may taper. It's easy for students who aren't enrolled in one of these programs to let go a sigh of relief, assuming that their own educational future is in the clear.

Such sentiments couldn't veer farther from reality. The truth: this crisis affects every single AASU student. Students enrolled in the

doomed programs will be forced to either abandon AASU or switch to an ulterior course of study. Those who stick it out will dig deeper into their recession-strapped pockets to pay for a longer-than-anticipated college career.

And paying for more college won't be easy – a tuition hike is on the way. The money has to come from somewhere and raising the price of education is the Board of Regent's most lucrative option. Brace yourselves.

Seeing as the new fiscal year starts July 1, expect the price at Georgia's education pumps to skyrocket just in time for fall classes. Expect a decline in registering freshmen – a pity we might not be able to fill those nice new dorms – and plan on saying your goodbyes to some out-of-state students who might decide education in their home states is more affordable.

Another reality: some AASU faculty and staff will lose their jobs. Full-time "temporary" instructors face being replaced with less-expensive part-time teachers. Sure, this'll save the university some money, but the debt of a diminished

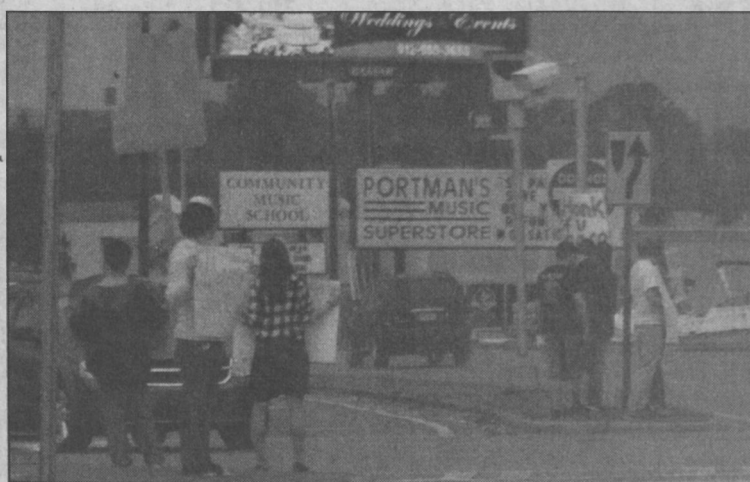


Photo by Hank Sharpe

AASU students protest on March 11 against education budget cuts. People who agree to the silent protest honk their horns while passing by on Abercorn Street and Mall Boulevard.

quality of education will be borne by students. In essence, we'll pay more and get less.

Our lame duck governor's promise that Georgia's "world-class university system" won't be dismantled under his watch might hold water, but USG's reservoir of academic promise is beginning to drain.

The world of higher education that has bound all of us to AASU is under siege. Unfortunately, so far we've been a reactionary bunch; instead of confronting the problem head-on, we wait for the bulldozers to crank their engines. Will the murmurs of action collect moss in online graveyards or will

students and faculty stand tall and loud?

It's not too late to write letters to the Board of Regents and the state legislature. It's not too late to ask tough questions of the administrators at this very institution – although they'll probably just refer you to Francisco Duque for a sugar-coated non-answer.

Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi weren't violent or unruly. But they also weren't quiet and they didn't give up after just one protest. Save the silence for the library and think about what these budget cuts mean for your life.



MCT

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Why it matters Inching toward progress

By Luke Farmer
Web Editor

Luke Farmer's views are his own and do not necessarily represent those of The Inkwell Editorial Board.



On Sunday the House of Representatives passed the Senate's version of the health care bill, after some final, last-minute deals between President Obama and a half-dozen anti-abortion Democrats. They promptly passed a package of "fixes" to deal with minor issues more progressive members of the House had with the bill.

The Senate is set to vote on that package soon (if they haven't already by the time this is printed). Republicans, of course, didn't cast a single vote in favor of these bills. As soon as they were passed they began talking into every camera they could find saying that they would repeal the bill.

This idea is insane. The Republicans would need to win well over 100 House seats and 16 Senate seats to have veto-proof majorities in both houses. Even in the wildest dreams of any sane Republican strategist that just isn't going to happen. So they're saying this really just as a fundraising tactic, and it will probably net them quite a lot of cash.

All of the legal challenges in federal courts that were started Tuesday are laughably weak and have virtually no chance of holding up in court. Several states have passed laws to try to exempt

themselves from the federal standards, but this country long ago settled the question of whether federal law trumped state law when they were in conflict.

Still, the bill is far from perfect. It doesn't create a single-payer system (as most other developed Western nations have) or even a relatively tame public option for people to buy into. It doesn't even lower the minimum age to enroll in Medicare.

The bill forces people to buy health insurance or face a fine by 2014, while setting up new "health care exchanges" to increase competition. Without a public option I'm not a huge fan of this idea, but I feel that one can be created, hopefully sooner rather than later.

The new legislation – signed into law by President Obama on March 22 – does contain a number of small but important fixes to the current system: it will prevent insurance providers from denying coverage because of pre-existing conditions; it eliminates lifetime caps on insurance payouts and eventually yearly caps too.

It provides generous tax credits for businesses to provide their employees with coverage, and gives vouchers to individuals and families making up to four times the

federal poverty level to purchase insurance. It will also let us college students stay on our parents' health care plans until we turn 26—one I am particularly fond of with my 21st birthday only a few months away.

We are far from fully covering everyone in the country – the bill leaves 12-15 million people uncovered – but it is a step in the right direction to bring down health care costs and to reign in the terrible practices of the health insurance industry.

So say hello to the New Health Care, Same as the Old Health Care (mostly). It's all a step in the right direction, and it's turning into fundamental argument about whether or not government should, or is capable of addressing large, persistent problems in our country that the people and the market cannot correct on their own. You likely will only see some modest changes for now and even after all the measures of the bill go into effect, but it is a solid statement that we can and will confront challenges that face the nation. Like I said, it's a step in the right direction. We're inching toward progress on this, but that is, for now, better than nothing.

theinkwellonline.com

SPORTS

March 27: Baseball vs. Montevallo 12:30 p.m.
Softball vs. Francis Marion 2 p.m.
Baseball vs. Montevallo 2:30 p.m.
Softball vs. Francis Marion 4 p.m.
March 28: Baseball vs. Montevallo 1 p.m.
Softball vs. UNC Pembroke 2 p.m.
Tennis at Francis Marion 2 p.m.
Softball vs. UNC Pembroke 4 p.m.

March 29: Men's Golf at the Bearcat Invitational
Women's Golf at the SCAD Spring Invitational
March 30: Men's Golf at the Bearcat Invitational
Women's Golf at the SCAD Spring Invitational
Tennis vs. Aub-Montgomery at Macon, Ga. 2 p.m.
Baseball at Erskine 3 p.m.
March 31: Softball at USC Aiken 2 p.m.
Softball at USC Aiken 4 p.m.

Pirates spend Spring Break in competition across America

Lander completes PBC baseball sweep of AASU

Courtesy of Lander Sports Communications

GREENWOOD, S.C. — The Lander Bearcats completed their first Peach Belt Conference (PBC) three-game series sweep in three years, winning both ends of a double-header against AASU, 4-1 and 7-2, March 20 at Legion Field.

Combined with Lander's victory over the Pirates on March 19, it was the team's first PBC series sweep since taking three straight against Georgia Southwestern on April 21-22, 2007.

Owens led the way with four hits in the two games, including a home run and two doubles, as the Bearcats improved to 16-9 overall and 3-6 in the PBC.

AASU fell to 16-9 (1-5).

Pitching was a big key to the double-header sweep as Lander won behind Darrin Tew's strong starting performance in game one, and a pair of three-inning scoreless saves including Brandon Farquhar in the first game and Drew Elliott in game two.

Lander took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the fifth of game one after Devin Riddlehoover and Ryan McNulty singled to left, and Joe Tebaldi reached on a bunt single to load the bases. Aaron Fludd grounded into a double play, scoring the first run. Bud Lanier reached on a throwing error to score the second run.

AASU pulled within 2-1 in the top of the sixth when Alex Wyche singled, stole second and scored on a single up the middle by John Roberts. But Tew got out of a one-out, bases-loaded jam with a strikeout and ground out to keep the Bearcats in front.

Lander increased its lead in the bottom of the sixth when Robert Skinner singled and Owens hit a two-run homer over the fence in left center, his team-leading seventh round-tripper of the season. It would be the game's final runs.

Pirates center fielder Michael Price saved a run in the bottom of the seventh when he made a diving catch of

Skinner's two-out sinking line drive, leaving Tebaldi, who had a leadoff double, stranded at third.

Owens was the leading hitter for Lander in Game 1, going 2-for-4 with a double, homer and two RBI, while Tebaldi and Riddlehoover were each 2-for-3 with a double.

Roberts led the Pirates in the first game, going 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Tew (4-3) was the winning pitcher for Lander, tossing five-hit ball over six innings, allowing one run while striking out five and walking one. Farquhar finished off the victory with three scoreless innings of one-hit ball for his first save of the season. Bryan Roby (1-1) took the loss for AASU.

The Bearcats got off to a fast start in the second game, scoring twice in the first inning on RBI singles by Owens and Pete Hernandez.

AASU pulled within one in the top of the third when Jake Sutton tripled to right and scored on Josh Wilson's sacrifice fly to right making it 2-1.

Lander expanded its lead to 4-1 in the fourth when Owens doubled off the fence in right and scored when Riddlehoover reached third on a pitcher's throwing error, and McNulty followed with an RBI double.

The Pirates pulled within two, 4-2 in the top of the fifth when Wilson was hit by a pitch and scored on Auston Thomas's hit-and-run double through the vacated shortstop position that rolled to the fence.

The Bearcats broke the game open with three runs in the bottom of the sixth. Riddlehoover led off with a double to deep right and scored on McNulty's single. Fludd walked and Lanier hit a two-out, two-run triple into the right-field corner.

Leading hitters in game two for Lander were Owens, 2-for-4 with a double and RBI; McNulty, 2-for-4 with two RBI; and Lanier, 2-4 with a triple and two RBI.

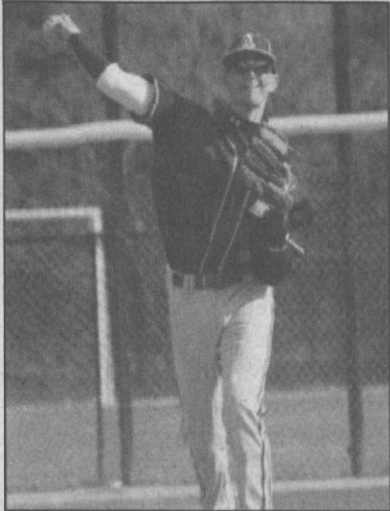


Photo courtesy of Sports Communications
Freshman Jake Sutton throws to first in a defensive effort against the Bearcats, but the Pirates come up short, allowing Lander the sweep.

Thomas led AASU in the second game, going 2-for-3 with an RBI. Chris Zittrouer was 2-for-4.

Casey Pippin (1-0) got the win in relief for the Bearcats while Elliott finished up for his third save of the season.

The brightest patch of AASU baseball's Spring Break was freshman third baseman Justin Wilson's being named the PBC's baseball Freshman of the Week, announced March 15 by league officials. It is the third straight week that the Pirates have earned the league's baseball weekly Freshman honor.

Wilson hit .462 with a double, two home runs and seven RBIs in the Pirates' six games on the week. He went 4-for-7 with six RBIs, including a pair of two-run home runs, in the doubleheader loss to No. 13 Francis Marion on.

The Springfield, Ga., native stole a base and scored a run in AASU's 7-0 win over West Liberty and went 1-for-2 with an RBI in AASU's win over the Hilltoppers. For the week, Wilson had a .662 on-base percentage and slugged 1.000 for the week.

Wilson joins Jake Sutton (March 9) and Cameron Scott (March 2) as Pirates who have earned the league's Freshman of the Week honors so far this season.

Lady Pirates swept by No. 1 in Spring Break action

Courtesy of Sports Communications

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The top-ranked and undefeated North Georgia softball squad hammered six home runs — including the game-winners in each contest — as the Saints swept a Peach Belt Conference (PBC) doubleheader from host AASU in Savannah.

The Saints (23-0, 8-0 PBC) remained perfect on the 2010 season with the pair of wins, ending a 10-game winning streak by the Pirates (21-8, 0-2 PBC) and also handing AASU losses in its first two PBC games of the season.

The Pirates opened up game one on a good note as sophomore Baillie Temples hit her team-leading ninth home run of the season in the first inning to give AASU a 1-0 lead. The Saints tied things up in the third on a solo shot by Laura Voyles, then took the lead in the fourth on a Katherine Martin RBI single.

Senior Nicole Huddleston tied things back up in the bottom of the fourth with a solo home run, but the Saints took the lead for good in the fifth as Lauren Dykes greeted reliever Shelby Duff with a two-run shot that sent North Georgia to the first-game 5-2 win.

Sarah Phillips (17-0) hurled the complete game win in game one, giving up four hits and two runs in seven innings, striking out eight. Duff (6-2) took the loss for the Pirates, giving up five hits and three runs in three innings pitched.

In game two, the Pirates looked in good shape to earn a split with the Saints as a two-run home run from sophomore Ashley Buckett in the

second inning and a two-run double by Huddleston in the third staked AASU to a 4-1 lead.

But the longball would strike again for the Saints as Hilary Cox hit a two-run shot in the fourth — her second home run of the game — to bring the Saints to within one. An RBI single by Dykes tied things up in the fifth inning, then Voyles

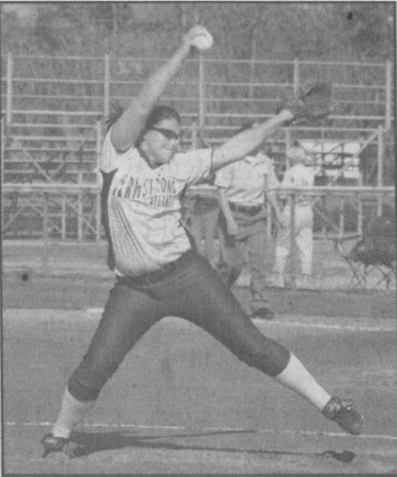


Photo by Luke Armstrong
Megan Barnwell pitched a complete game against No. 1-ranked North Georgia in the second game of a doubleheader on March 16.

struck for a solo home run leading off the top of the seventh to clinch the 5-4 win and the doubleheader sweep for North Georgia.

Phillips again went the distance in game two, scattering nine hits and four runs in seven innings, walking two and striking out seven. Two-time PBC Pitcher of the Week Megan Barnwell (8-3) took the loss for the Pirates, giving up nine hits and five runs — three earned — in seven innings, walking one and striking out seven.

Voyles and Dykes each had four hits in the doubleheader to lead North Georgia as Voyles had three solo home runs in the pair of games, driving in

three runs. Cox had a 3-for-3 day in game two with three RBIs and two runs scored.

Huddleston finished the game with three RBIs and two hits while Temples went 3-for-7 with a double for AASU.

The games represented the first time AASU had hosted the top-ranked softball team in the nation since March 30, 2004, when AASU split with then-No. 1 Kennesaw State, winning 4-1 and losing 7-4.

The Lady Pirate softball team can brag about freshman Megan Barnwell, who was named the PBC's softball Pitcher of the Week for the second straight week with the release of the league's weekly honors. Barnwell went 3-0 with an 0.44 ERA in three starts for the Pirates, who extended their win streak to 10 over the weekend before their losses to No. 1 North Georgia.

She started the week by limiting Tusculum to four hits and one run in five innings in a 7-1 win over the Pioneers, then held No. 22-ranked Lenoir-Rhyne to four hits and one unearned run in seven innings, striking out nine in a 2-1 win over the Bears. The Brooklet, Ga., native finished the week with four shutout innings in a 6-2 win over Saint Leo on Sunday. In 16 innings on the week, Barnwell gave up just 12 hits while striking out 18. On the season, she ranks third in the PBC in ERA as well as opponents' batting average, as well as fifth in strikeouts. Barnwell is the first AASU pitcher to earn consecutive PBC Pitcher of the Week honors since Katya Eronina collected the honor in three straight weeks from March 16-29, 2004.

No. 1 Pirates stay undefeated in Las Vegas

Courtesy of Sports Communications

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The top-ranked men's tennis team in NCAA Division II, AASU Pirates, edged the No. 1-ranked team in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes (NAIA), Fresno Pacific, by a 5-4 score on March 17 at the Darling Tennis Center in Las Vegas. A battle of unbeaten squads saw the Pirates (16-0) hand the Sunbirds (11-1) their first loss of the 2010 season. AASU has also now beaten five top-5 ranked teams this season over three different divisions with the victory, that ended the Pirates' trip in Nevada with a 4-0 mark.

Fresno Pacific took two of three doubles matches to earn a 2-1 lead after doubles play. The fifth-ranked duo in NAIA, Alex Gonzalez and Xavier Smith, downed the fourth-ranked team in NCAA DII, Rafael Array and Mikk Irdoja, 9-8 at No. 1 doubles. FPU also took the No. 3 doubles match as Maxime Adam and Martin Vaisse beat Eudaldo Bonet and Paul Fitzgerald, 8-6. AASU's doubles point came at No. 2 doubles as Matus Mydla and Daniel Regan teamed to beat Denny Fafek and Jose Hilla, 8-6.

The Pirates then won four of six singles matches, including the clincher in three sets, to earn the victory. AASU picked up straight singles wins from Bonet at No. 2 singles over No. 13 (NAIA) Gonzalez, 6-2, 7-5; Mydla defeated Fafek, 6-1, 6-3, at No. 3 singles and 38th-ranked Fitzgerald bested Hilla,

6-3, 7-5, at No. 6 singles.

Vaisse beat fifth-ranked Array, 6-1, 7-6, at No. 3 singles for FPU, and the Sunbirds also got a 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 win by 35th-ranked Adam over Regan at No. 5 singles.

Seventh-ranked Irdoja claimed the deciding singles match for the Pirates at No. 1 singles by out-dueling 29th-ranked Smith, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4, as the AASU junior was named the PBC Men's Tennis Player of the Week for the second time this season.

Irdoja went 2-0 in singles and doubles play as the top-ranked Pirates knocked off a pair of No. 2-ranked teams last week. He notched a 6-3, 6-2 win over the top-ranked singles player in NCAA Division III, John Watts of Washington University in St. Louis.

The Talinn, Estonia, native, then beat No. 11-ranked Marko Mokrzycki of Barry, 7-5, 6-2, on March 13. Irdoja teamed with Rafael Array to beat the third-ranked doubles duo in DIII, Watts and Max Woods, 9-7 then knocked off No. 9-ranked Emanuel Fraitzl and Max Wimmer of Barry 8-6. This is the second PBC Player of the Week honor this season for Irdoja, who was also the league's Player of the Week on March 2. The top-ranked and two-time defending NCAA Division II National Champion AASU Women's Tennis team faced a stiff test from the second-ranked team in NAIA, but the Lady Pirates prevailed with a 6-3 win over Fresno Pacific at the Darling Tennis Center.

The Lady Pirates (16-0) remained unbeaten on the season while handing Fresno Pacific (13-1) its first loss of the 2010 season.

AASU won two of three doubles points to take a 2-1 lead into singles play. The No. 3-ranked duo of Martina Beckmann and Alida Muller-Wehlau bested the top-ranked duo in NAIA, Katia Sabate and Vanessa Heroux, 8-3, at No. 1 doubles. Fourth-ranked Gabriella Kovacs and Sona Novakova defeated Sara Celma and Cristina Vallardes, 8-2, at No. 2 doubles for AASU, while Fresno Pacific picked up a point at No. 3 doubles as Yulia Blinovskaya and Erika Januskova edged 15th-ranked Kathleen Henry and Tina Ronel, 8-6. The Pirates clinched the match with three straight-set singles wins, including the duel at No. 1 singles between the top-ranked player in DII, Novakova, besting the top-ranked player in NAIA, Sabate, 6-2, 6-2. 24th-ranked Beckmann beat Januskova, 6-2, 6-3, at No. 5 singles and Henry defeated Blinovskaya, 6-0, 6-1, at No. 6 singles.

Fresno Pacific picked up a point at No. 4 singles in straight sets as Vallardes defeated 15th-ranked Kovacs, 6-1, 6-2, and the other two singles matches were decided by 10-point third-set tiebreakers. Tina Ronel, ranked 38th, defeated 18th-ranked Heroux, 6-4, 3-6, (10-7) at No. 3 singles for AASU, while 20th-ranked Celma upset fifth-ranked Muller-Wehlau, 0-6, 6-4, (10-8), at No. 2 singles for Fresno Pacific.

Pirate golf take on tough competition

Courtesy of Sports Communications

The AASU men's golf team shot a final-round 303 on March 16 and finished in sixth place at the 2010 Southeastern Collegiate, hosted by Valdosta State at the Kinderlou Forest Golf Club. Host Valdosta State led wire-to-wire and garnered the team championship with three-day 873 total, finishing nine strokes ahead of No. 7 Florida Southern (882). No. 5 North Alabama (884) and No. 2 GCSU (884) tied for third, while No. 1 Barry (885) rounded out the top five teams in the 18-team field. After entering the final round with a tie of the lead, freshman Jacob Tilton shot a 79 to finish with a 221 total, tying for 13th individually. Sophomore Matt Motes shot the day's best round for the Pirates, firing a one-over-par 73 and finishing tied for 17th with a 223 total. Junior Ridge Purcell shot a 76 and finished tied for 32nd individually with a 226 total. Junior Parker Gordon shot a 78 on Tuesday and finished tied for 37th while junior David Patterson

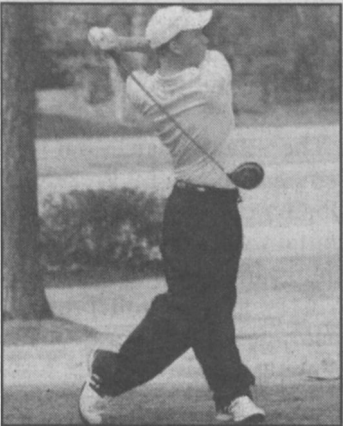


Photo courtesy of Sports Communications
Junior Ridge Purcell hit drive after drive at the Blazer Invitational. The Pirates faced a field stacked with top-25 ranked teams. Purcell finished tied for 36.

Newberry led the 14-team field wire-to-wire, posting a 313 score to finish the tournament with a 624 total, winning by 26 shots over UNC Pembroke (640). Anderson (642), Catawba (655) and Wingate (671) rounded out the top five, while the Pirates placed sixth with a 672 total, just one shot behind Wingate.

Sophomore Victoria Bennett carded an 84 to finish the tournament with a 160 total, tying for 10th place for her first Top 10 finish of the season. Freshman Kelly Pearce shot the day's best round for the Pirates with an 80, finishing in 23rd place with a 167 total. Junior Sarah Johns shot a second-round 85 to finish tied for 34th with a 172 total. Junior Carrie George shot a second straight 87 to finish tied for 38th with a 174 total, while sophomore Kim Knox rounded out the AASU scoring with an 89 to finish tied for 41st with a 175 total.

The Lady Pirates return to action on March 29-30 at the SCAD Spring Invitational at the Wilmington Island Golf Club in Savannah.



Geigermania: Once upon a time

By Adam Geigerman
Sports Editor
sports.inkwell@gmail.com

We are living in a fairy tale world that comes around once a year. It is a wacky world dominated by the jitterbugging of 64 of America's most beloved, and scarcely known, college basketball programs. The setting is the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, and it features unadulterated "David verses Goliath" match-ups. That's the beautiful thing about the national championship in college basketball. It truly is win or go home. And in 2010's "big dance", Cinderella has been winning.

It hasn't just been one Cinderella that's grooving ever closer to cutting down the nets. At the conclusion of the Second Round of the NCAA tournament, there have been 15 "David over Goliath" victories and as of March 23, there are still six 6-seed or higher teams left in sweet-sixteen round.

Those six teams are the definition of a glass-slipper wearing, life-of-the-party at the "Big Dance" Cinderella.

2010 could turn the entire world of collegiate sports on its ear by hosting an – for the first time in the history of history or basketball – all mid-major Final Four. The Ivy-League's Cornell, Huskies of Washington, St. Mary's Gaels and the Jayhawk-killing UNI are the 12-9 seeds respectively, and if three of those four teams win, along with 5-seed Butler, history will be made.

That hope, that so many people have clung to like a four-year old to her blankie, has inspired me as a Major League Baseball fan.

Yeah, it's confusing how it relates, but hang in there.

Before March Madness took control of America, one buzzer-beater at a time, all we – as sports fans – had was one depressing story after another. Tiger Woods and Big Ben Roethlisberger are you-know-what deep in tabloid sex scandals, tragedy surrounding Chris Henry's accidental death and the reunion of self-proclaimed 'roider – and therefore cheater – Mark McGwire with his St. Louis Cardinals have left me in a deep, dark-blue sports

depression. My favorite thing in the entire universe, sports, had me seeing red.

Until now. Hope has hit my heart like a shot of adrenaline after an espresso-laden latte frappacino, or whatever it is that Starbucks became famous for. Firstly, Tiger is coming back in a conquest to redominate the golf world from its very own Mecca, The Masters. That's the most likely of fairy tales to become reality.

Secondly, but equally – if not more – important, my Atlanta Braves have an actual shot to return to their '90s form by winning the NL East, and beyond. The fairy tale here focuses on the two bravest Braves, striving to regain glory before they retire from the game, only to become eternally immortalized in Hall of Fame enshrinement.

Braves third basemen Chipper Jones and manager Bobby Cox have publicly declared that 2010 will be their final seasons in baseball. Doubt that as you may – and I do – but their decrees raise the stakes for this season. The greatest

contributor to the World Series hope of Braves fans is that it's not impossible.

The powerhouse Phillies are in our division, along with the always upstarting Marlins, the rebuilding Mets and – owner of Stephen Strasberg's 100 mph, first-round pick arm – Nationals.

OK, so what? Cox's Braves have Jason Heyward, a six-foot-four, 230-pound, baseball-crushing ogre. He is said to have the power of Thor and potential of Roy Hobbs. Rumor has it that he vaporized a baseball, sending it 500-plus feet, into the team's parking lot, cracking his General Manager's windshield.

Not convinced? Los Bravos still have one of the major's most shutdown pitching staffs, led by perennial all-star catcher Brian McCann and diaperdandy phenoms Jair Jurrjens and Tommy Hanson. Add free-agent signees Melky Cabrera and Troy Glaus to Jones, Nate McLouth and potential late-season call up Freddie Freeman, and the Braves have a

Pirates' Plunder

AASU Sports Trivia, previews and more

By Adam Geigerman
Sports Editor



AASU Sports Trivia

1. Pirate Tennis Coach Simon Earnshaw just reached his 500th career victory for men's and women's tennis. How many years did it take him?
2. How many NCAA Division II Tennis Championships have the Pirates won under Earnshaw?
3. Who was Pirate Baseball's first ever alumni to reach the Major Leagues?
4. When was the last time that Pirate Softball hosted the No. 1 team in the nation before their recent match-up against North Georgia?
5. Before moving into the Peach Belt Conference in 2000, what conference did AASU Golf belong to?

Check your answers at the bottom of the page.

chance.

That's all you need anyways. You've got your heroes: the Braves, Cornell and Woods. Your villains: all the favorites, except Woods. And your fantastical fairy tale settings: sports. So, in the words of T.O., get your popcorn ready and plant yourself in front of a TV or, if you're lucky enough, at a stadium and cheer for the underdogs.

I'm praying that the slipper fits and the clock never tolls midnight.

Get it. Got it. Good.

On the horizon

Baseball:

March 27-28



vs. Montevallio

March 30



at Erskine

Softball:

March 27



vs. Francis Marion

March 28



vs. UNC Pembroke

March 31



at USC Aiken

Golf:

March 29-30



Women's at SCAD
Spring Invitational at the
Wilmington Island Club
Men's at Bearcat Invitational

Tennis:

March 28



at Francis Marion

March 30



vs. Aub-Montgomery
at Macon, Ga.

AASU Sports Trivia Answers

1. Coach Earnshaw has been coaching for 11 years.
2. Pirate Tennis has won five National Championships – three women's and two men's.
3. Adam Benero was the first Pirate to reach the majors. He graduated AASU in 1999 and played for the Detroit Tigers.
4. The Lady Pirates hosted No. 1 Kennesaw State University on March 30, 2004. They split the two game series.
5. Prior to being reinstated in 2000, Pirate Golf belonged to the Big South Conference in the NCAA's Division I.

Cinderella isn't so puny anymore

By Zachary Sinclair
Staff Reporter

The landscape of sports is undergoing a huge transition. No longer are the schools of rich tradition still in control of the college world but now the underdogs, and their smaller conferences, have stood up and made it a competitive battle. North Carolina, UCLA, Arizona and Connecticut – all powerhouse basketball teams – did not even earn a bid to the big dance.

The NCAA basketball tournament has become the modern day, quintessential example of the Cinderella story with this year's dance being only the third time since 1985 to have four teams seeded ninth or worse reach the Sweet 16. Every one of those underdog schools beat a team that had a legitimate shot at the title game.

Another key stat: the Big East is a dismal 6-6, the ACC is 5-5, the Big Ten is a staggering 7-2 and the Big 12 is contently 7-5. The Pac-10 and ACC only have one team left to represent the major conferences. The mid-Major teams are 1-1 and 2-0; they are staging a huge turnaround showing they are there to party.

Kansas, the overall No. 1 seed – most people's pick to have "one shining moment" at the end of the season – lost in the second round to Northern Iowa, basically destroying every single American bracket. Northern Iowa looks to take on another team used to winning when it matches up against – once again favorite – Michigan State.

Xavier, considered as the favorite of all the mid-Majors to win, stomped out 3-seed Pittsburgh's championship run, distributing some revenge after last years tourney loss.

"Mid-Major is just a label," said Xavier forward Jason Love to ESPN.com. "I don't think too many mid-Majors get to three straight Sweet Sixteens, so you can just throw that out the window."

Xavier may just be that team who is able to slip that

glass slipper on its foot and become the Cinderella.

Cornell is the first Ivy-League program to win a game and advance to the semi-finals since 1979 with their wins over 4-seed Temple and 5-seed Wisconsin. The Big Red is considered one of the Cinderella schools as they look to upset 1-seed Kentucky. The Wildcats are the new favorite to win it all, now that the Jayhawks have been ousted.

Villanova, a 2-seed, just squeaked by Robert Morris – a normal one and done team. They took Nova to overtime, where Jay Wright's squad got a "W," but followed it up with a heartbreaking loss to Saint Mary's. With St. Mary's victory, yet another smaller school advances to play another day. They'll meet 3-seed Baylor, another Final Four favorite.

Ohio, a 14-seed, created a huge upset by dogging 3-seed Georgetown. The Hoyas were a team coming off a Big East runner-up, and they were picked to make it to the Final Four.

This isn't Butler's first rodeo, despite their mid-Major status. They have tournament experience and know what it takes to compete against "The Beast from the Big East" Syracuse. The Orange has been on a tear since losing in the opening round of the Big East Conference Championship.

Murray State was the team that played out the tourney's first upset, a first-round miracle against Vanderbilt. Danero Thomas achieved hero ranking when he nailed the game winning field goal with .01 seconds left to upset. He had ice water in his veins

The trend started back in 2006 when George Mason beat Connecticut to be the first 11th seed and small conference school to reach the Final Four. They laid the modern-day foundation. Now small time schools are proving that teams do not need tradition or NBA-caliber players to win the big one.

But instead, the focus has become smart, fundamental play and heart, lots and lots of heart. Many of the guys playing for these teams will not make it to the NBA and when they lose will be the last time they ever put on a jersey, so why not make it last as long as possible and disrupt the traditional system?

The NCAA Basketball Tournament isn't the only place where the small schools are making themselves known. Boise State, TCU, Utah, BYU, and many other smaller schools are making huge waves in the world of college football.

Boise State is one of the more famous "BCS Busters," and the Broncos are making a case; they want

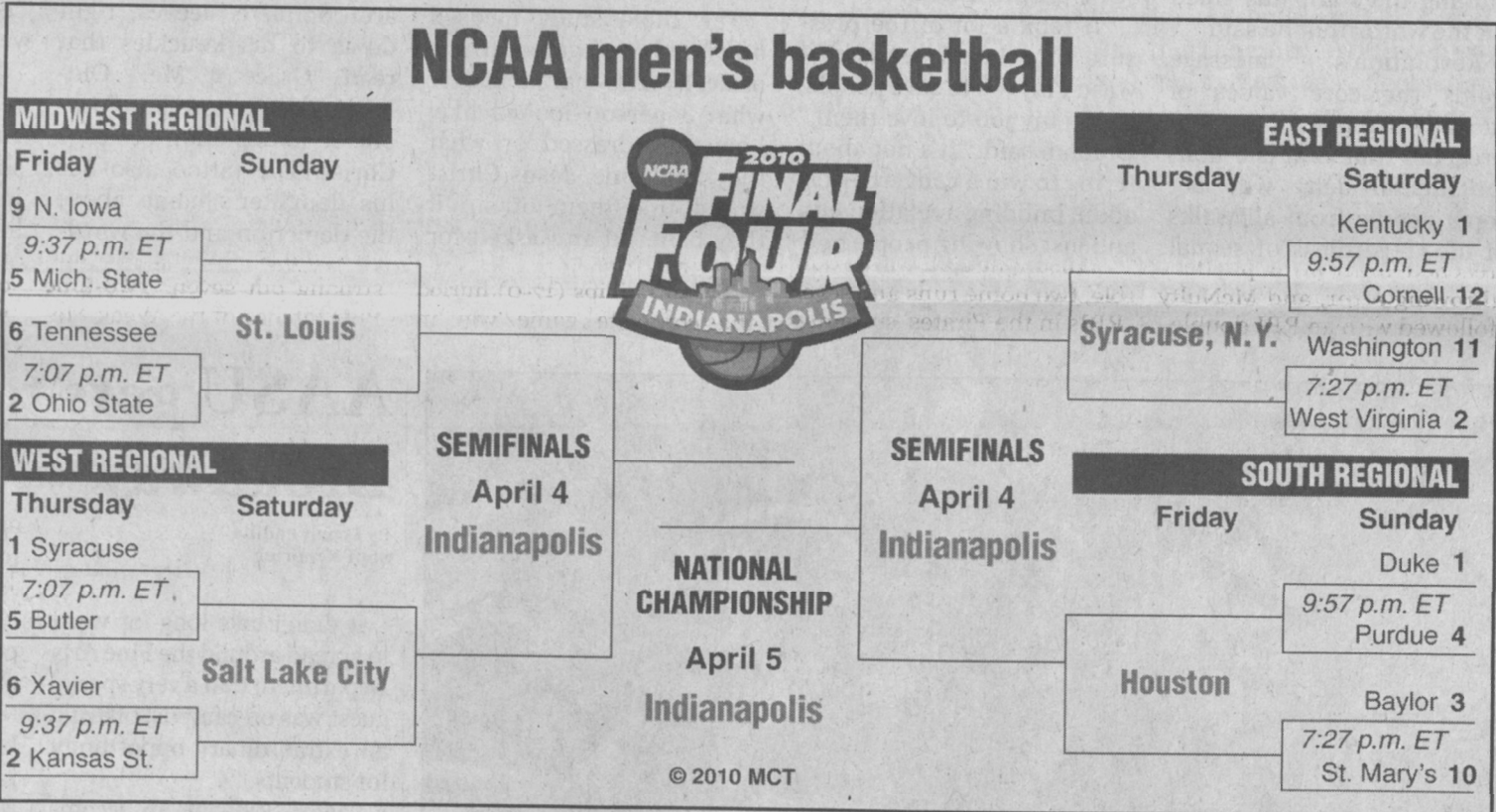
into the big game. They beat Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl 43-42 in overtime off a Pee-wee-esque "Statue of Liberty" play and scored off a "Hook and Lateral" to send the game into overtime in 2007. They did it again against TCU with a 17-10 win proving they should have a shot at a championship in 2009.

TCU is another smaller conference program on the rise. The Horned Frogs beat eight bowl-eligible teams, including when they went into Death Valley at Clemson and escaped with a win. Utah, a former BCS winner, beat the Big East champions, Pittsburgh, a season earlier.

With all these smaller schools getting exposure, and winning, questions like "who is the next team to have a Cinderella story?" are popping up.

Will it be a DII school that rises to the challenge? How far will they advance, and what will the television exposure do for the school? And what happens to all the tradition the older schools once cherished and dominated?

The exposure helps them to get their names out there, showing the type of heart and potential they have. Possible recruits want to go to schools that get national attention, which helps the schools have more parity. Better equipment and



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

March 26: The AASU Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents the 12th annual High School One-Act Play Festival in the Fine Arts Auditorium. The free event runs through March 27 and features local high school theatre troupes in competition throughout both days. The AASU Student Juried Art Exhibition continues through April 9 in the Fine Arts Gallery. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday.

March 27: The Outdoor Art Show and Children's Festival takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Fine Arts Hall Courtyard. The free event, presented by the AASU Department of Art, Music and Theatre, offers family dance, music and art activities. Festival attendees will be able to purchase artwork from AASU students, alumni and faculty.

March 29: "For the Bible Tells Me So: An Exploration of Homosexuality and Religion," part of the Residence Life Spring Diversity Series, takes place at 7 p.m. in University Hall room 156.

March 31: It's time to rock that Pirate shirt. The theme of today's SGA-sponsored spirit day is AASU logo wear. Join the AASU Department of Art, Music & Theatre for "Raku Pizza Night." Starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Courtyard and Fine Arts Hall room 102, pottery from AASU art majors can be viewed and attendees can watch demonstrations of the kiln firing process.

Savannah man practices tattoo art, ministry

By Andrea Cervone
Staff Reporter

At first glance, David Oldham, owner of Resurrection Ink tattoo parlor, appears to fit in easily with the four tattoo artists and the piercer under his employment. But as an ordained Church of God minister, Oldham holds slightly different beliefs than his employees.

"Dave is actually the only Christian at the shop," said Resurrection Ink tattoo artist Donald "Dooz" Smith. "But it is really a comfortable environment for everyone."

Oldham, a Hinesville native, was raised in a traditional Pentecostal environment. However, he developed a discomfort with church by the time he was 13 – at which point he stopped attending church for 15 years.

"It was really because I saw how people were and the things they would do, and it was really fake to me," Oldham said. "I thought preachers were like the worst people because they were the ones telling me what to do and how to live but they wouldn't do it themselves. So to me, ministers were like the biggest hypocrites."

As an adult, Oldham said he felt called to the ministry, and began working with the Church of God to get his credentials. However, he said

something felt off.

"I noticed that I was the only guy in there that really didn't fit into that scenario. It felt really odd to me because I was having to kind of mold myself into this minister that people want to see, and it just wasn't me," Oldham said. "I felt like I was being a hypocrite and lying, which kind of defeated the purpose of going into ministry in the first place."

After re-evaluating his purpose, Oldham met Jay Bakker. Bakker runs an Atlanta-based church called Revolution, which targets the city's subculture crowd.

"They were literally open to everybody," Oldham said. "It seemed to me that they were doing what most churches only claim to do."

Revolution's slogan, "religion kills," was introduced to Oldham through a service held in a bar.

"The thing that was most amazing to me was that he went up there and literally opened his Bible, sat down at a table with a microphone and just spoke," Oldham said. "Everyone in there, including the staff, was glued on the words that he said."

Revolution's message holds the core values of most Christian churches but preaches that God is a non-judgmental deity who accepts people from all walks of life, regardless of sexual

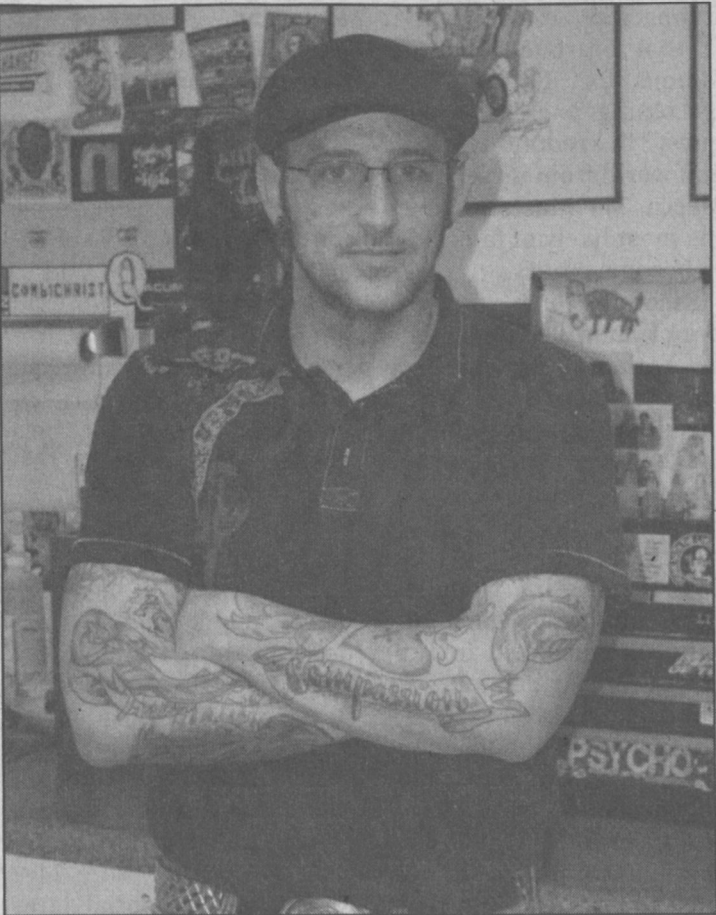


Photo by Andrea Cervone
David Oldham, pictured above, is the owner of Resurrection Ink.

orientation or checkered pasts.

Bakker and the Revolution church acted as catalysts for Oldham to start his new "Outcast Ministries."

"It took a lot of the pressure off when I realized it wasn't my job to save people, it was my job to love them," Oldham said. "It's not about trying to win a convert – it is about building a relationship and just showing people how

forgiveness.

"You look at everything and everyone differently when you quit judging why a person is in a situation or what they could have done differently," Oldham said. "The real issue is that this person is just in a situation. They don't need to hear what they could have done or should have done, they just need to hear that someone cares."

The study, which lasted three years, is currently on temporary hiatus due to personal reasons in Oldham's life and recent renovations to the shop.

"When [Oldham] was doing the Bible study, I encouraged it even though I'm not of his faith," said Resurrection Tattoo artist Dominic Rapson. "It was nice that he was reaching out to the kids that normally couldn't be reached out to, and he never tried to convert me or anything which I appreciated."

While many are taken aback by the inclusive message of Oldham's ministry, they are even more surprised by his tattooed appearance.

Both of Oldham's arms are complete sleeves, right down to his knuckles that read "Grace 4 Me." Oldham's first tattoo is a Catholic-style depiction of Jesus Christ. The tattoo also has his daughter's name above the depiction and the words

"Thank you God." Oldham got the tattoo to memorialize the birth of his daughter Angel, who he said is a miracle baby. He believes many people are merely misguided when they associate certain stigmas with body art.

"The Bible does say that people shouldn't get tattoos, but if you use that logic then you have to follow all the rules. If I'm going to hell because I have tattoos, then following that logic, then my pastor was going to hell for being clean shaven," Oldham said. "I don't think God cares if you have a tattoo. You have to look at why God told Israel that during that time period."

During recent renovations, Oldham has attempted to mute Christian undertones in the shop to make all customers feel welcome. The business card logo, once an image of Jesus Christ, has been redesigned into a tattoo style anchor and the scripture once painted on the parlor walls has been removed. However, Oldham plans to paint one elegant verse on a wall sometime in the near future, but has not cemented any of the details yet.

"In the beginning I didn't really clarify the lines well enough, but we are a tattoo shop," Oldham said. "I have just run a ministry out of here."

GREEN | FROM PAGE 1

"During the actual assembly, the biggest task was implementing the idea for the linear actuator, which was really the highlight of the whole project," said Luke Lander, a junior AASU engineering student who worked feverishly on the float alongside Lonnie McGee, Mark Hodges, Wayne Johnson, Chris McCarthy and Jill Phongsu.

"With the linear actuator, we were able to turn something stationary into something a little more life-like that 'rocked' back and forth," Lander said. "A feature such as this significantly improved the original idea of having a stationary float."

Lander stressed the importance of the work of McGee and Hodges in particular, who Lander credited with doing most of the mechanical work.

"They designed pretty much the entire float and spent countless hours in SolidWorks putting everything together electronically prior to the main production phase," he said.

To the anonymous multitude who volunteered their time and effort, Lander said,



Dr. Bleicken, in pirate costume, and her husband Carl Bleicken, in parrot costume, wave to the crowd in the pirate ship float.

"Thank you all for pitching in! You know who you are!"

The ship was built entirely from scratch and is a shining product of mechanical ingenuity, as well as artistic vision. What appeared to be a pirate ship off-course was actually the masterful realization of teamwork and creativity.

"The art crew also spent many, many hours with us and did a great job on everything

they touched," Lander said. "The external 'ship hull' was made from vinyl siding which was painted brown to make the hull look more like real wood. The sails were made from cloth and wire reinforcement and the masts were made from PVC pipe."

In the end, the "Armstrong Atlantic" signifies more than a pirate theme. Instead it goes further in exemplifying the

sheer talents of the students that compose AASU in its many different aspects.

"As the engineering group, we hoped to represent AASU by showing others some of the engineering abilities that we have learned in the classroom," Lander said. "Building the float was a great experience, and we hope AASU plans on using it for years to come."

AASU gets taste of Broadway

By Logan Padilla
Staff Reporter

It didn't take long for word to spread around the Fine Arts Department that a very special guest was on campus, offering an extraordinary opportunity for students.

Leenya Rideout, an accomplished vocalist and Broadway actress, visited AASU on March 23 to hold a master class with four students. The session was open to public viewing.

Rideout has made a name for herself in the film industry by appearing in such movies as "Mona Lisa Smile," "Bittersweet," "Loser" and "The Singing Biologist." She has also established herself in the theatre world by performing in the Broadway shows: "Cyrano de Bergerac" (alongside Kevin Kline), "Company" and "Cabaret."

Rideout also performed in the international tour of "My Fair Lady" and has many regional theatre credits to her name, including a silver medal from the Savannah Music Festival's "American Traditions" vocal competition.

The master class began with a performance by Rideout. After three numbers, the Broadway star took a seat and

allowed four AASU students to perform one prepared song each.

Ashley Adams, a junior vocal performance major, was one of the student performers.

"I loved it. She is a wealth of knowledge and understanding," Adams said of her experience with Rideout. "Being able to receive feedback from her was an exhilarating experience."

The master class ended with a quick question and answer session, giving students a sense of what it takes to become a showbiz professional.



Photo courtesy of Lucinda Schultz
Broadway actress and vocalist Leenya Rideout participated in a vocal "master class" with AASU students on Tuesday, March 23.



Cheerleaders show AASU spirit and perform at the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17.

Photos by Hank Sharpe

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Stay Entertained in Savannah

THINKmusic

On Thursday March 25, Cincinnati electro/pop group the Seedy Seeds and Doylestown, Pa., folk rocker Peasant play the Sentient Bean on 13 E. Park Ave at 8 p.m., tickets are \$5. At 10 p.m., Columbia, S.C., hard rockers Hot Lava Monster join local group Outta Your Element at the Wormhole on 2307 Bull St.

Savannah indie-pop rocker Dare Dukes joins Atlanta band Little Tybee at the Co-Laboratory on 631 E. Broad St. at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 26, tickets are \$5. Mellow alt-folk rockers State Champion and singer-songwriter Emily White come all the way from Chicago to play an 8 p.m. show at the Sentient Bean. Savannah country-rockers Turkey Callers play the Jinx at 127 W. Congress St. at 10 p.m. Also at 10 p.m., Richmond, Va., electronic-funk group the Silo Effect plays at the Wormhole. Yet again at 10 p.m., Atlanta-based Jam rockers Under the Porch take the stage at Fiddler's Crab House on 131 W. River St.

On Saturday, March 27, N.C. blues-rockers Jubal Kane play a free 10 p.m. show at Live Wire Music Hall on 307 W. River St.

At 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 28, Indigo Arts Center at 703D Louisville Rd. hosts Vinyl Appreciation, a listening party where local DJs share their record collections. The \$3 suggested donation benefits the Savannah Urban Arts Festival.

On Tuesday, March 30, Sydney electro-industrial group Angelspit join electronic/gothic rockers Ego Likeness for a 10 p.m. show at the Wormhole.

California folk-Americana duo Troubaduo plays a free 9 p.m. show on Wednesday, March 31 at Live Wire Music Hall.

The Savannah Music Festival boasts a flurry of concerts this week, including Wilco, She & Him and the Emerson String Quartet. For information, including show times and ticket prices, visit savannahmusicfestival.org.

Remember to secure your tickets for Jeremih with Wiz Khalifa and Yelawolf. The CUB-sponsored concert is April 9 in the AASU Fine Arts Auditorium.

THINKMovies

"Hot Tub Time Machine," a time-traveling comedy starring John Cusack and Rob Corddry, opens this weekend and can be seen at Regal Eisenhower Square 6 on 1100 Eisenhower Dr.

Roman Polanski's "The Ghost Writer," the critically acclaimed political thriller starring Ewan McGregor and Pierce Brosnan, is playing this weekend at Carmike Wynnson 11 at 1150 Shawnee Street.

On Wednesday, March 31, the Psychotronic Film Society presents the 1982 Australian cult-action film "Turkey Shoot" at 8 p.m. at the Sentient Bean, tickets are \$5.

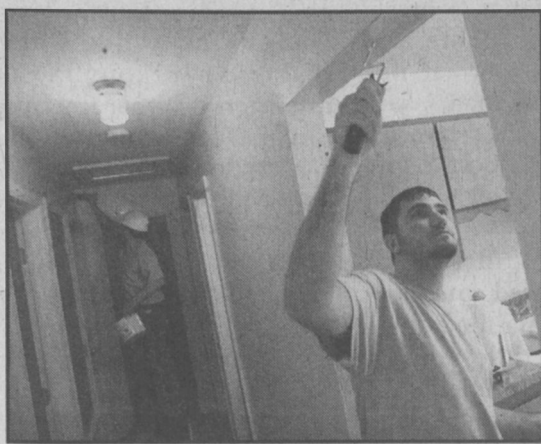
'Alternative spring break' gives sense of purpose to time off

By Kate Santich
The Orlando Sentinel
(MCT)

ORLANDO, Fla. — Time was when spring break was synonymous with beer and bikinis. But these days, a large and growing number of college students are spending their precious time off helping underprivileged kids, abandoned pets, disabled veterans and disaster victims.

Alternative spring break, as the movement is called, will draw 72,000 students across the country this year, according to the national nonprofit Break Away.

Florida is both a leading provider of student volunteers and the beneficiary of scores of team projects led by out-of-



Penn State Harrisburg student Joe Thorne helps paint a house in Orlando, Fla., with the help of other students during their spring break on March 16, 2010.

state students seeking a side of sunshine with their altruism.

"Our alternative spring break program has become so popular that we're actually booking schools two to three years out," said Susan Storey, communications director for the Kissimmee-based Give Kids the World, which treats children with life-threatening illnesses and their families to an all-inclusive Florida vacation. "This week we have Purdue with 55 students and Colorado State with 10. DePaul gets here next week, and St. John's [University] and the University of Georgia just left."

With 1,500 volunteer shifts to fill each week, Give Kids the World puts the students to work doing everything from laying sod to serving up pizza parties for the kids.

At the University of Central Florida, the alternative spring break program has grown so much, so fast that this year three students were turned away for every one accepted.

Jessica Maureen Schwendeman, 23, said there's no better way to spend the week.

"I'm very passionate about this work, and I'm having a great time," she said last week from Birmingham, Ala., where she was leading a group volunteering at inner-city schools. "I feel like it's a waste of time to just sit around when I could be doing something that's fulfilling to me as person and helps somebody else. I have the rest of my life to sit around."

That seems unlikely. The UCF senior is not only a double major in political science and sociology, but she also has minors in women's studies and public administration — and she is student director of Volunteer UCF, the group that coordinates the alternative spring break trips. She already has applied to the Peace Corps and, after graduation, hopes to spend two years working in Africa.

The super-achiever personality is typical of today's generation of alternative spring breakers, said Samantha Giacobozzi, program director of Atlanta-based Break Away, which helps match participating colleges with eager charities.

"The caliber of student leadership within these alternative break programs is astonishing," she said. "The ones we

meet have tremendous motivation and interest in social justice and the desire to make an impact."

Although Break Away was founded in 1991, Giacobozzi and others say the concept of alternative spring break really came into its own after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Colleges that already had alternative break programs added trips aimed at disaster relief, and colleges that lacked such programs began to launch them.

Since then, Giacobozzi said, student participation has risen 10 percent to 15 percent each year. At the University of Florida, which has won national recognition for its extensive volunteerism, students this year could choose from nearly two dozen projects — including protecting marine life, educating communities about HIV and AIDS and laboring alongside impoverished farm workers.

Most, if not all, major schools in Florida now have formal alternative break programs, and many pay much of the cost of the trips.

Marlon Gutierrez, a 20-year-old UCF junior, spent last week in San Juan, Puerto Rico, working with homeless dogs at an overwhelmed shelter. As student leader for the trip, he was charged nothing, and

other students paid \$300 each for the entire week — for which they put in some hard labor.

"After the first four hours, we were really tired," Gutierrez said. "The woman who runs the place — she basically takes care of 200 dogs by herself. There was a lot of work to be done."

Not that he was complaining. The hardest part, he said late last week, was having to leave.

Representatives of charities helped by spring breakers say the students are invaluable. Generally young and healthy, they're often able to do physical labor and tackle large projects that other volunteers may not.

Habitat for Humanity, for instance, has created a "collegiate challenge" to make the most of its student work force, charging minimal fees to house volunteers at 250 work sites across the country.

"In a way, being part of alternative spring break just validated everything I thought about volunteering and making a difference," said Kelly Thibert, 21, a senior in molecular microbiology at UCF who has spent two of her four spring breaks in the alternative program. "The years I didn't do it, I really felt like I was missing out."

Bittersweet chorus at SXSW: 24th annual fest concludes with moving tribute to Alex Chilton

By Greg Kot
Chicago Tribune
(MCT)

AUSTIN, Texas — The 24th annual South by Southwest Music Conference began somberly Wednesday as word spread throughout this gathering of 13,000 artists and industry professionals that the iconoclastic singer-songwriter Alex Chilton had died. But in the early morning hours on Sunday, South by Southwest came roaring to a celebratory close with some of Chilton's closest friends singing and performing one of his greatest songs.

"September Gurls," a classic song from Chilton's days leading the Memphis band Big Star, rang out at Antone's, one of this music city's most revered clubs. On vocals were Susan Cowsill, R.E.M.'s Mike Mills and the Watson Twins. Jon Auer was on guitar, joined by Andy Hummel, one of the founding members of Big Star who had not played publicly in decades.

Ken Stringfellow played bass, anchoring the rhythm section with Big Star co-founder Jody Stephens, who smiled wanly as he attacked the drums. The song capped a night of glorious music, the type of music — melodic, yearning, concise — that can transform a wake into a celebration.

It also was a signature moment in South by Southwest's history, the kind of event that serves as a poignant reminder of the role music plays in our lives. As a multitude of voices — including Evan Dando, M. Ward, John Doe, the Meat Puppets' Kirk Kirkwood, Sondre Lerche, Chuck Prophet — came together to pay homage to one of their own, the tribute concert offered perspective at a time of deep anxiety and disorienting transition in the music business.

Originally divided into panels by day and music showcases at night, South by Southwest is now a four-day marathon of around-the-clock music-making, with an-

cillary parties all over town. With more than 1,900 bands registered at the conference, there was no shortage of options.

Sleep was rarely an option, for fear of missing something great.

The old-school industry still uses the conference as an opportunity to roll out new projects by veteran artists. Courtney Love resurrected her '90s band Hole and performed with focus, a triumph of sorts in the face of predictions that the infamously mercurial artist would sabotage herself yet again.

But is a professionally competent Love really what the music world covets right now?

At 53, Sharon Jones has had a long, distinguished career without anywhere near the notoriety of Love, but the veteran soul singer's star has been on the upswing ever since Amy Winehouse used Jones' backing band, the Dap Kings, to make her

own record. Jones remains a dervish in a yellow dress and high heels, dancing up a storm while singing with wall-shaking fervor and made the case that her next album, due in April, deserves wide attention.

Also leaving a deep impression was Montreal's Besnard Lakes, whose soaring vocals and triumphant guitars signaled the arrival of a powerhouse album, "The Besnard Lakes Are the Roaring Night." And roar the band did, with husband-and-wife team Jace Lasek and Olga Goreas trading lead vocals over towering melodies.

In-demand producer Danger Mouse unveiled his latest project, Broken Bells, a collaboration with singer James Mercer of the Shins. The duo was part of a seven-piece ensemble that precisely replicated the songs from the band's self-titled debut album, without bringing much life to the occasion.

Broken Bells had the mis-

fortune of performing in a dusty, bowl-shaped outdoor venue called Stubb's, which has all the charm of a sandbox. With hundreds of venues of varying sizes hosting showcases, bands were sometimes overwhelmed by their surroundings. A solo set by JJ singer Elin Kastlander at a noisy bar sabotaged her whispery orchestral-folk tunes. But others rose above, most impressively Danish art-pop band Efterklang, whose multipart songs and hymn-like interludes won over a noisy 6th Street bar crowd.

Many of the most-buzzed-about bands played multiple times at multiple venues, sometimes three or four in one day. Among the most active were Florida anthem-rockers Surfer Blood and U.K. trio The xx. Seeing The xx beneath the vaulted ceiling of an 8th Street church was just about perfect — I can't imagine a better venue for these minimalist masters.

Someone should repo 'Repo Men'

By Eric Robers
Staff Reporter

It's truly heartrending to see such great concepts wasted on poor execution — no pun intended.

Before I start listing out what I have to say, just know I'm not being stingy about this kind of movie; sci-fi/cyberpunk stories are among my favorites, so don't take it lightly when I preview by saying "Repo Men" was one of those movies I was really pulling for — this review earnestly pains me.

The story is set inside a tragic universe where sickness prevails and a seemingly innocuous corporation, The Union, has stepped up to combat the rising organ failure rate with mechanized organs — commonly referred to as artiforgs. Everything is kept casual and businesslike on the exterior, but on the inside, The Union keeps the game interesting by boosting interest rates to already expensive payment plans on their artiforgs.

If all payments aren't made within three months of each

due date, The Union dispatches a highly trained Repo Man to find you — and it's not exactly your credit score that gets sliced to bits.

The plot of the film follows one of The Union's most highly respected Repo Men, Remy (Jude Law) as he does his dirty work. Soon into the film, Remy catastrophically ends up injured on the job and unwillingly fitted with an artiforg heart he can't afford. As can be expected, the not-too-pleased Remy spends the rest of the film fighting against The Union and his old partners in the hopes of staying alive.

As earlier stated, it really pains me to say, but this movie is just too blasé and mediocre to pass off as anything special.

The first thing a lot of people are going to hone in on is the distinct similarity between this film and the 2008 rock-opera "Repo! The Genetic Opera." But trust me — even if the "Repo!" plotline did come first (which is debatable — "Repo Men" was based off the novel "The Repossession Mambo," which

claims open production as early as 2003), that's only one drop in an ocean of other stories that "Repo Men" has lifted scenes or plots from. The most blatant rip-offs reach as far back as 1977 with "Logan's Run," or even farther back with old-school cop noirs.

Generic plot aside, some of you out there may be wondering how well this film stands on its own merits, and once again, the news isn't good.

The production team didn't really seem to understand what emotional connection in a film can do to an audience. There was an obvious attempt to connect with the characters, but nobody had any chemistry, and that could be blamed on the seemingly amateur direction. But it's generally hard to love characters who find such childlike joy in mindless manslaughter — even the Joker from "The Dark Knight" had some kind of philosophical point behind his sociopathic slayings.

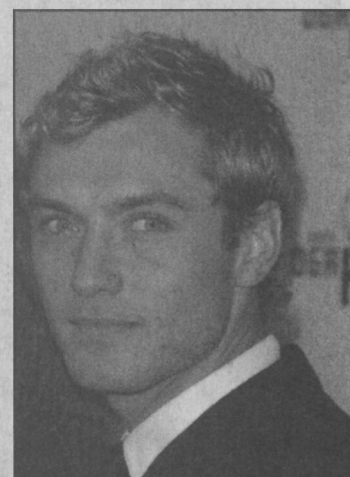
On that note, I find it incredibly awkward character-wise when I see Remy almost vomit when trying to cut

open his first post-surgery target, only to attack a crowd of guards 30 minutes later with multiple daggers, a fireaxe, and — I'm not joking — a hack-saw.

I could continue to pick this movie to death, but to be fair; there are good points to this film that deserve highlighting.

Though the killing is mostly pointless and the gore is boringly excessive, this film does have some incredibly choreographed action sequences, especially the previously mentioned hack-slashy blade party that Remy throws for all the guards outside of the infamous Pink Door. The soundtrack blends well with the action in the scenes, and generally it's got some serious style.

Frankly, I'm not rushing to recommend this film. It's not the worst thing in theaters right now, but it's still just another ham-handed action flick. The action is stylish and the ending is pleasantly unexpected, but I'd have to genuinely grit my teeth to say that's worth the \$10.



Nicholas Khayat/Abaca Press/MCT Jude Law, pictured above, stars in the sci-fi action film "Repo Men," now in theaters.

★★★

2.5 out of 5 stars

A Universal Pictures production

Directed by Miguel Sapochnik

Starring Jude Law, Forest Whitaker and Liev Schreiber

Rated R for strong bloody violence, grisly images, language and some sexuality/nudity.

Student activism on college campuses is most heated in decades

By Cyndee Fontana
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

FRESNO, Calif. — Since last fall, frustrated Fresno State students in California have holed up overnight in the library, marched by the hundreds through campus and invited themselves to the president's house for study hall.

The demonstrations, borne of budget cuts, stirred memories of the 1960s and 1970s, when the campus simmered with anti-war and civil rights protests. While nothing now approaches that volatility, many say today's student activism — fueled mainly by class cutbacks and soaring fees — is the most ambitious in decades.

"It's remarkable," said Lisa Weston, an English professor and president of the faculty union. "For many, many years, students on campus have been very quiet."

Echoing that was Matt Ford, one of about 80 students who camped out at the library in November to protest its limited hours.

"People say 'I've been teaching here for 20 years and I've never seen anything like this — and it's about time,'" he said.

Students have publicly debated President John Welty, rallied to complain about skyrocketing fees and a lack of democratic decision-making and showed up on the president's doorstep to study on a Saturday — when the library was closed. E-mail, social-networking sites, YouTube videos and even low-tech paper leaflets advertised everything from sit-ins to rallies.

The protests illustrate a larger trend. Students throughout the California State University and University of California systems — sometimes aided by sympathetic professors and campus unions — have marched, rallied and occupied buildings.

CSU's faculty union has helped publicize and even joined in some events. But Lillian Taiz, a history professor at CSU-Los Angeles who heads the California Faculty Association, said students are making their

own decisions.

She praised their initiative, calling it "critical for an educational experience that you learn how to stand up for yourself."

Today's students "are learning to apply what they've learned to their own experience," she said.

Statewide, the most extensively coordinated demonstrations are expected Thursday, when representatives from all levels of public education protest budget cuts. Local "Day of Action" events include early-morning pickets at Fresno High and other schools, a march from Blackstone and Shaw Avenues to Fresno State and a rally at the university.

At Fresno State, some say recent protests represent the most consistent wave of student activism in nearly half a century.

Back then, students opposed to the Vietnam War hung President Richard Nixon in effigy. Demonstra-

tions erupted when word spread that several black and Chicano professors were fired. One student was convicted of arson after the university's \$1 million computer center was fire-bombed.

Nat DiBuduo, who graduated in 1972 and now is president of Allied Grape Growers in Fresno, remembers protesters breaking windows as they ran through campus, a student blockade that closed Shaw Avenue and multiple bomb scares.

Though many protests were peaceful, "there was a violent side to what was going on back then," said DiBuduo, a conservative who served in student government and tried to calm some disputes.

In contrast, this year's protests featured some raw language and pointed questions — but little conflict beyond that. Students at the library study-in cleaned up before they left; activists

brought in pizza after one rally.

Statewide, some demonstrations have been marred by violence or clashes with authorities. Last week, protesters at UC-Berkeley broke into a building, torched trash cans, smashed windows and threw rocks and bottles at police. In December, a dozen students at San Francisco State University were arrested for trespass after barricading themselves inside a classroom building.

Last week, the CSU faculty union issued a statement of nonviolence reiterating the power of peaceful protest and civil disobedience. Leaders have praised students for acting within that framework in drawing attention to the financial plight of higher education.

A \$560 million funding shortfall this year hit the 23-campus CSU. The ripple effects of that loss — class cuts, layoffs, employee furloughs and higher student fees, for example — spawned the student protests.

At Fresno State, different students and organizations

have sponsored demonstrations drawing anywhere from a dozen to several hundred students.

Some groups, such as Students for Quality Education, have visible leaders and members. Others are loose-knit and even anonymous — such as the publishers of the recent e-mail newspaper "The Student" that criticized campus and CSU administrators.

Mayra Miranda, a representative of Students for Quality Education, said she was moved to protest after budget cuts eliminated several of her fall classes.

"I channeled that into becoming more active," said Miranda, who helped lead a protest march and walkout in October that drew roughly 400 students.

Weston, president of the faculty union, was surprised at that turnout.

"The number of students marching blew me away," she said. "I've never seen that many — not even at graduation."

theinkwellonline.com

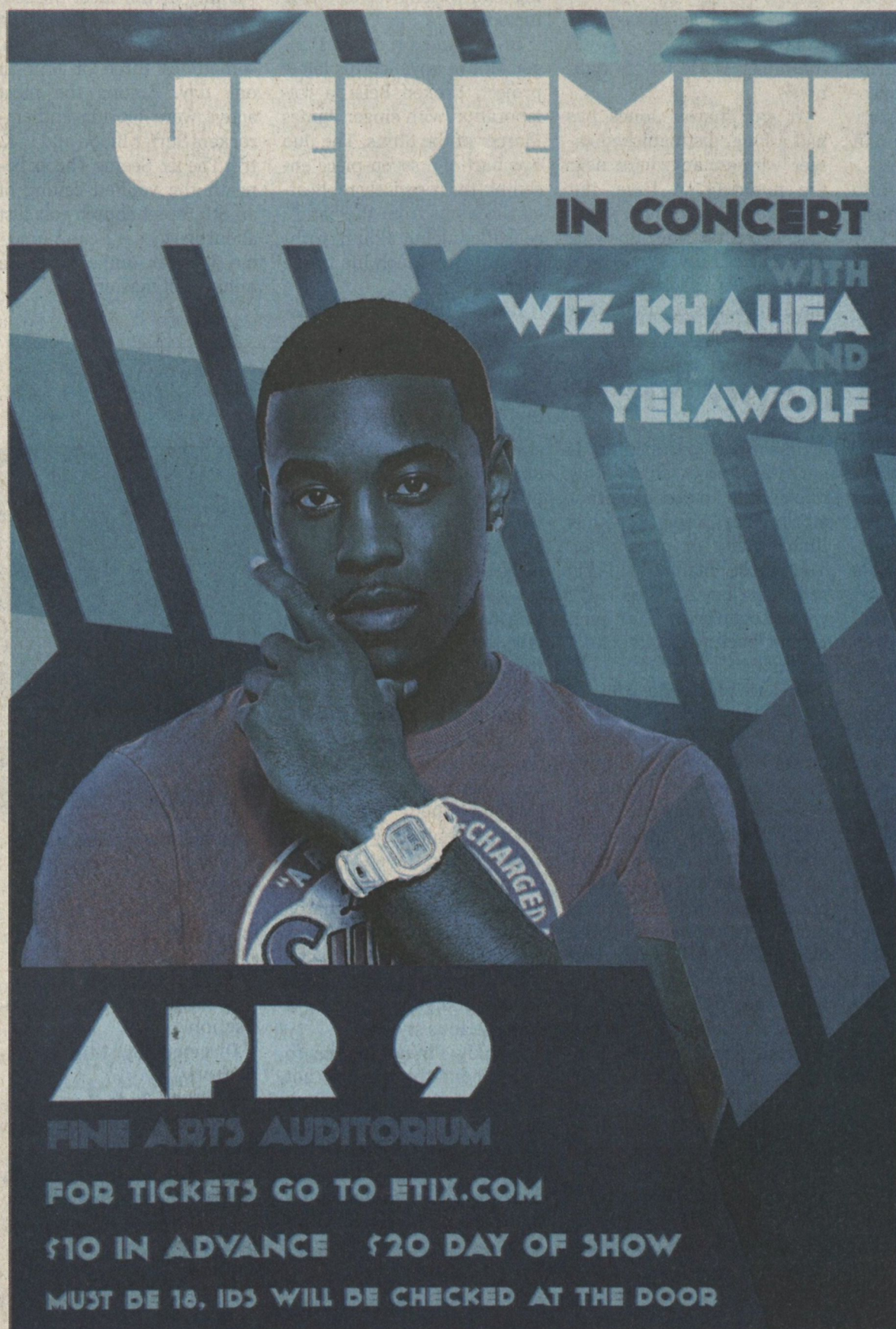
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